

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 10-23, as follows:

The speech masking signal may also be produced by reading out digital representations of signals disruptive to the understanding of speech from a memory; and converting the digital representations to the speech masking signal. The digital representations may be in the form of one of pulse code modulation and adaptive pulse code modulation, and may be representative of multiple persons speaking simultaneously. The speech masking signal may be produced by sampling portions of the speech; and providing the portions in reverse order. At least one of amplitude and frequency of the masking signal may be changed at intervals. The intervals may be fixed, variable or random.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, lines 5-19, as follows:

One form of preferred embodiment is a circuit consisting of an amplifier, an [[a]] analog-to-digital converter, an inverter, a digital-to-analog converter, a power amplifier and two or more speakers. The invention may then be embodied as a computer program (or as computer readable program code stored on a computer readable storage medium) in a computing device that inverts the phase of an incoming signal and uses that inversion to cancel or disguise the sound of the speaker's voice, thus preventing other individuals in the general vicinity of the speaker from hearing clearly what the user is saying. This system can also be implemented using a microphone

coupled to an analog-to-digital converter and then to the circuitry described in Fig. 1.

Please amend the paragraph at page 12, lines 17-24, as follows:

In another form of the present invention, which may utilize a portion of the approach of Fig. 2, the phonemes detected by the phoneme recognizer 210 and subsequently generated by the phoneme generator 214 are shifted up or down in frequency and or amplitude, and may also be delayed a short amount of time prior to being output to the speaker. The techniques for shifting frequency or delaying a signal are well understood.